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ABSTRACT

England's Department for Education and Skills (DfES) plans to require schools to set targets for students at their school to attain level 5+ in each of English and mathematics in the tests in 2003 and beyond. These targets will be in addition to those already set for achievement at level 4+. There are new national targets for Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics for 2004: 85% of students to achieve level 4+ and 35% to achieve level 5+ in each of English and mathematics. This booklet explains the national targets using a question-and-answer format. (NKA)

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Guidance

Examination & Assessment

Target setting at Key Stage 2

Heads and Chairs of Governors of maintained schools, including special schools, with KS2 pupils

Status: Notification of new legal requirement

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Related Documents:

Circular 11/98

Target setting in schools

Overview

We plan to require schools to set targets for pupils at their school to attain level 5+ in each of English and mathematics in the tests in 2003 and beyond. These targets will be in addition to those already set for achievement at level 4+. We expect to confirm this change to the law in May's edition of Spectrum.

There are new national targets for Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics for 2004: 85% of pupils to achieve level 4+ and 35% to achieve level 5+ in each of English and mathematics.

Action required

By 31 July 2002 governing bodies should set the new targets for pupils taking the tests in 2003. For subsequent years level 5+ targets will be set with other targets by the end of December.

Schools that have already set level 5+ targets for 2003 need take no further action except to publish these in the annual report to parents.

Further information

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Target setting at Key Stage 2

What are the national targets for 2004?

1. Target setting has been shown to help raise standards of pupil performance and schools have set targets for pupil attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 for some time.

2. New national Key Stage 2 targets for English and mathematics were first proposed in the Green Paper *Schools' Building on Success* (Feb 2001). Following consultation in the autumn term 2001, the Secretary of State has confirmed that:

- 85% of pupils nationally should achieve level 4+ and 35% should achieve level 5+ in English and mathematics in 2004;
- all LEAs should have at least 78% of their pupils achieving level 4+ in each of English and maths by 2004.

Although these national targets are very challenging, further improvements expected in the Key Stage 2 results this year should provide a good platform for achieving them. £192 million a year has been allocated for improving standards of literacy and numeracy in primary schools this year and next.

What targets must schools set?

3. The Secretary of State has also confirmed that schools will need to set targets for the percentage of pupils to achieve level 5+ in English and mathematics in the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests. This is in addition to the existing requirement to set targets for pupils attaining level 4+ in these subjects. Schools should set these level 5+ targets by 31 July 2002 for the tests to be taken in 2003. For subsequent years schools will set level 5+ targets by the end of December at the same time as other target setting takes place e.g. by 31 December 2002 for 2004 targets.

4. The Department's Autumn Package can help schools to set level 5+ targets and compare their performance with national averages and trends. It helps schools to predict how many of their pupils may go on to achieve level 5 given their prior attainment by providing value added information e.g. 36% of pupils nationally who attained an average level 2A at KS1 in 1997 went on to get level 5+ in maths at KS2. Schools can also use the Autumn Package to gauge how successfully they are contributing towards achievement of the national targets. The Autumn Package and other support materials for target setting can be found at www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/performance/.

5. We have recently produced guidance with QCA, including video material, to help teachers identify the levels of work achievable by gifted and talented pupils in English and maths. National Curriculum online (www.nc.uk.net/home.html) also includes guidance on gifted and talented pupils and links to other resources for supporting more able pupils.

6. Schools should inform LEAs of their level 5+ targets for 2003 next December along with their level 4+ and 5+ targets for 2004.

How should schools publish their targets?

7. Governing Bodies must publish all their targets in their annual report to parents alongside actual performance data for the relevant school year. The report for the current academic year 2001/02 should include the first Key Stage 2 targets in English and mathematics at level 5+ for 2003 (unless the report has been published before targets are required to be set), as well as those already set for English and maths at level 4+. There is no need to publish targets if there are ten or fewer pupils in the relevant cohort when the target is set.

8. In a few schools, mainly middle schools, a cohort of pupils enter in the final year of the Key Stage, three terms before the KS2 tests. Such schools should set targets for that year group as soon as practical after the beginning of the school year in which pupils will take the tests.

What is the LEA's role in setting targets?

9. Schools are responsible for setting and publishing their targets for pupil performance, and every school should also play its part in helping to meet the target agreed for the LEA as a whole. Local authorities can help schools set realistic and challenging targets and have to include these in their Education Development Plan (EDP). LEAs have already set authority-wide targets for achievement at level 4+ and level 5+ in 2003 and 2004 in their EDPs.

What is the legal basis for setting targets?

10. The legal basis for target setting is in Section 19 of the Education Act 1997. We plan to amend the Education (School Performance Targets) (England) Regulations 1998 SI.1532 to cover setting level 5+ targets with effect from 30 April 2002. We will confirm this change in the law in May's edition of Spectrum.

Where can schools find further guidance on target setting?

11. Further guidance can be found at - www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/performance/pupil_perf.html. (Standards Site) and in *Supporting the target setting process revised March 2001* (DfES/QCA, 2001).

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